WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for distributing streaming media through a network of

2 computers in a secured manner to a client device, the method comprising:

3   forming a secured media object and a residual mask for the secured media

4 object, the secured media object being disabled;

5   replicating the secured media object into a plurality of secured media object

6 copies 1 through N, each of the secured media object copies representing the secured media

7 object, where N represents an integer greater than 1;

8   transferring the secured media object copies 1 through N into respective

9 distribution servers 1 through N through a network;

10   storing the secured media object copies 1 through N in memories of the

11 respective distribution servers 1 through N;

12   scheduling delivery based upon a selected time and date of one of the secured

13 media object copies at one of the distribution servers to a client device through the network;

14 and

15   transferring the selected secured media object copy from the selected

16 distribution server at the selected delivery time and date through the network.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the scheduling delivery is provided by

2 a management sever coupled to the network.

1   3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the network comprises a cable

2 television network or a network of computers.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 further comprising associating the selected

2 secured media object copy with a residual file to form an unsecured media object copy.

1   5.   The method of claim 4 outputting the unsecured media object copy on

2 a display of the client device.

1   6.   The method of claim 4 wherein the associating is provided at the client

2 device.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the replicating is provided at the

2 management server.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the secured media object comprises an

2 ID number.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 wherein the network of computers is the

2 Internet.

1   10.   The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is selected from a

2 television, a computer, a personal digital assistant, a network computer, and a workstation.

1   11.   A system for providing security to compressed digital media, the

2 system including a medium for computer codes, the codes include at least:

3   a code directed to forming a secured media object and a residual mask for the

4 secured media object, the secured media object being disabled;

5   a code directed to replicating the secured media object into a plurality of

6 secured media object copies 1 through N, each of the secured media object copies

7 representing the secured media object, where N represents an integer greater than 1;

8   a code directed to transferring the secured media object copies 1 through N

9 into respective distribution servers 1 through N through a network;

10   a code directed to storing the secured media object copies 1 through N in

11 memories of the respective distribution servers 1 through N;

12   a code directed to scheduling delivery based upon a selected time and date of

13 one of the secured media object copies at one of the distribution servers to a client device

14 through the network; and

15   a code directed to transferring the selected secured media object copy from the

16 selected distribution server at the selected delivery time and date through the network.

1   12.   The system of claim 11 wherein the computer codes are provided on a

2 single memory or a distributed memory.